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VOL. XXXI.

Maine Farmer.

REBEKEL LEMES,
S. L. BOARDMAN,
H. L. BOARDMAN,
Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

Rejuvenating Old Apple Trees.

There are thousands of old apple trees in Maine that appear to be in the last stages of their existence, that might, with a little care and labor, be so completely rejuvenated that they would be so to produce large crops of fruit again, and continue to do so for years to come.

We have found that when an old tree becomes decrepit in its larger limbs and is mossy on its trunk and exhibits other marks of decay, if it is cut down and the trunk and branches are removed, and the trunk is cut into sections, and the sections are placed in a pile of manure, and the pile is covered with a layer of straw, and the pile is left for a year, the sections will be so completely rejuvenated that they will be so to produce large crops of fruit again, and continue to do so for years to come.

Next, all decaying limbs, though not quite dead, had better be shortened in, prudently, not cutting away too much of them, especially if they have young suckers upon them, for they thus form the soil, as it were, or the ground work and foundation of these suckers, in which is all our hope. This, done, look over the array of young branches or suckers which cluster about the trunk and on the aged limbs. Consider what form they are in the best position, and which will form the best limbs when grown. Save all such and saw off the rest close to the live wood of the present limbs.

In this way you prepare, in fact, a series of young limbs for future bearing, and they will do it. Remember that it is the young that bear, and not the superannuated in the vegetable kingdom, as well as in the animal. If you desire a change of fruit in the tree, these young twigs, say from a size of a pipe stem to that of your thumb or larger should be engraved rather than the older and larger ones.

Attention should now be paid to the renovating the tree by fertilizing the soil in which it is planted. A tree, like a horse tethered to one spot, will, in time, consume all the food that it can find within its reach and must, therefore, be supplied with an additional amount placed in its circle. Among the best of these are wood ashes and ground bones, muck, neutralized lime, &c. &c. If neither of these can be readily obtained, good fresh loam, from the road side or a pasture, where no trees have grown, earthed and spread around, will give a decided start to the decaying and hungry roots.

The editor of the *New England Farmer*, as does also one of his correspondents, (O. K. of Rochester, Mass.), recommends from the experience of actual trial, to lay on good soil to the depth or height if need be, of a foot to two feet. Hereafter it has been thought that it would be injurious, if not fatal to trees to build up earth around them higher than what they have been accustomed to, but their experiments go to prove the correctness of this position.

Again, many old trees have hollows and cavities in and about their trunks occasioned by the decay of the wood where injuries of some kind have been received. It is a good plan to clear off the dead and "punky" wood, and fill in over the bare shoots with some adhesive cement.

Fourth, the discovery of a work on fruit trees, some seventy-five years ago, gained quite a celebrity by the invention and use of the following composition or plaster to be applied to decaying trees: One bushel of fresh cow-dung, half a bushel of lime, half a bushel of old buildings, (half a bushel of the ceilings of rooms is preferable), half a bushel of wood ashes, and a sixteenth of a bushel of oil or river sand. Stir the three last articles fine before they are mixed; then work them together well with a spade, and afterwards with a wooden beater, until the stuff is very smooth, like fine plaster used for the ceilings of rooms.

This is put on to the decayed surface, after being cleaned as above directed, about a quarter of an inch or more in thickness, and made smooth, and then dusted over with the ashes of burnt bones, put on from a pepper or dressing box.

The composition was thought, at that time, to have some powerful healing virtues, and enabled the tree thereby, to recover and grow with uncommon thriftiness. We think, however, that its principal use is to cover and defend the wood from the decomposing effects of the weather. It performed, in some degree, the office of bark to the denuded surface. We have not the least doubt that any thing else that would stick as snug would do as well. With this belief we are trying the use of a mortar of hydraulic lime in the same way, and have no doubt that in time, we can give as good a report of it as we could of the use of Forsyth's composition.

There is an interesting history attached to this (Forsyth's) mode of decaying trees. As long ago as 1791, his success in renovating and rejuvenating old decaying trees, began to be much talked about.

He kept his mode of preparing the plaster a secret, which made the anxiety of the people to get hold of it still more strong. The House of Commons made it a matter of state importance that it should be made public, and addressed the King upon the subject, who "graciously" awarded Forsyth four thousand pounds (\$20,000) for publishing the recipe and directions for its use. Such an award as that would make a Yankee very characteristically and appropriately exclaim: "good gracious!"

The Governor's Address, which we place upon this page, crowds out our usual miscellany of agricultural reading, and curtails our other departments, which obliges us to lay over several interesting communications until next week.

Hints from the Horticulturist.

A WOMAN'S GARDEN. A lady correspondent furnishes an account of her garden, its size, products, &c. This statement is given, says the writer, "that I may succeed in imparting to others what I myself have learned. The time is now at hand when those who contemplate building next summer will be deciding upon a model, and any ideas thrown out may possibly be of advantage to some."

The size of the garden is one hundred feet square. Its products for the past year were "all the vegetables needed for a family of six persons," and "all flowers that are pretty, and easily attainable," with "the approved varieties of fruit," including ten varieties of dwarf pears, six of dwarf apples—the sort for orchards of small extent—seven grape-vines, "strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants, &c." Does any one ask how such is grown upon a small plot of ground, and that by a lady? The answer is given in her own words: "The garden is kept clean, and managed by system."

GRAFTING THE GRAPE. A correspondent relates his success in performing this operation, which was a most gratifying one. Grapes grafted with the Delaware in 1861, bore in 1862 the following crop: Twelve vines in one row, matured over a bushel of very large and luscious fruit, besides furnishing about fifty unusually fine layers. The writer says: "Here is proof positive of the value of the art of grafting; a saving of two or three years of time, no little expense in hothouse-making, besides the cost of the vine, which is not a trifle to most people, when the best are ordered. Let no one who can graft, consider his old vines of inferior kinds as of no worth; for a little pains, a short period of time, and a cost trivial, if any, will convert them into the best." We think this matter is deserving the attention of our gardeners.

Agricultural College of Pennsylvania.

A pamphlet of 76 pages, having the above title, has been received from the President of the Institution, Dr. E. Pugh. It embraces a sketch of the rise and progress of agricultural education in Europe, with notices of its progress and present condition in our own country, giving sketches of the existing institutions in the different States, devoted to agriculture, or where it is one of the leading branches; and a complete history of the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, formerly known as the "Farmers High School." This Institution was originally incorporated in 1854, under the latter name, which was retained until the spring of 1862, when it was changed to its present name. The college buildings are stately and substantial, completely finished, and built of stone. They are amply provided with recitation and lecture rooms, students' apartments, &c. &c. The course of study occupies four years, but students can enter any part of the course according to their degree of advancement. Graduates receive the degree of Master of Science and Practical Agriculture. The expenses—including wood, room, tuition, washing, &c., are \$100 per term of ten months. The college has an able Board of Trustees, and during the year 1862, had one hundred and ten students, nearly all of the loyal States being represented. We had intended publishing from this pamphlet that part relating to the objects of the Institution, but it must be deferred until next week. Meanwhile, those wishing for catalogues or other information can address Dr. E. Pugh, President of the Faculty, Agricultural College, Centre County, Penn.

Editorial Notes.

As proof of the estimation in which our journal is held by the intelligent farmers of Nova Scotia (where we have a large list of excellent subscribers) we have a mention that the *Parrsboro' (Cambridge County) Agricultural Society* have recently purchased from the celebrated Devon bred Edward G. Bull, Esq., West Farms, N. Y., three cows and heifers as follows: "Kate," "Winona," and "Kate 2d." We are glad that these war times do not interfere with the farming and stock breeding operations of our worthy friends to such an extent as to prevent him from importing choice specimens of his favorite breed into the State.

Mr. H. W. Glidden, of Solon, writes us that he raised the past season eighty-eight and one fourth bushels of white beans from the following fields: five acres of beans with beans planted between the hills, one and one half acres of potatoes with beans between hills, one half acre of clear beans. Of the above amount Mr. G. sold seven ty-five bushels, for which he has received \$190. This is an excellent yield. With some farmers it is the practice to plant peas with potatoes, but if the latter are matured in the hill, we see not why beans cannot be planted with them instead of peas, inasmuch as they generally bring more in the market, and can be harvested with much ease.

Something about Cranberries.

Mr. John B. Carter, who has a sheep farm on one of the islands near Solowick, has also been engaged in a small way, in raising cranberries; and some two years ago gave our readers some account of the manner in which he prepared his small cranberry patch before setting the plants. Mr. Carter writes us that he gathered three bushels the first year after the vines were set, seven the second, thirty-six the third year, and sixty the past season. He has taken the turf from another portion of the island, mixing it with peat-moss and sea-weed, in which his hog-pen, from which he thinks he will make manure enough to pay the expense of removing the turf, leaving it for a proper state for the reception of the vines, which Mr. C. intends to put on in the spring. We agree with him in saying that if farmers would go into keeping sheep and raising cranberries, they would find it more profitable than keeping dogs.

Communications.

Plan for a Barn.

MESSES. EDITORS.—A good barn is of great value to a farmer. Its advantages and conveniences are so numerous and so plain to all, that they need not be enumerated. The capital invested in one pays a liberal interest. The time is now at hand when those who contemplate building next summer will be deciding upon a model, and any ideas thrown out may possibly be of advantage to some.

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State Affairs.

Governor's Message.

The political year which has just closed, and the one on which we have entered, will be recorded as the most important in the history of this State and nation. A year of gigantic proportions has been going on for a period of twenty months, with varying fortunes, with constant fluctuations of increasing number, and with a state of affairs which decision may affect for well or for ill, not only ourselves and the nation, but the whole of the human race. The maintenance of the act in its full spirit and effect has, therefore, passed from a question of legislative expediency to one of public honor.

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